

# Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner  
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
September 24, 2014



## FARMLAND PRESERVATION CELEBRATION DRAWS HUNDREDS TO LEBANON GREEN

*By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky*

(LEBANON) - Nibbling an ear of roasted sweet corn picked that morning from a nearby field, Oliver Manning walked through the crowd gathered at the Farmland Preservation Celebration last weekend and recalled the days when he feared he might have to sell his dairy farm in town.

For the better part of the 1970s and 1980s, he said he regularly received letters from developers interested in turning his farm into house lots. And in lean years, he confessed, he sometimes felt the temptation to sell.

"There were many times when I wondered if we would be able to stay in agriculture," said the fast-talking, energetic 90-year-old, who still raises a couple of beef cattle every year.

Selling the development rights to the state in 1993 under the state's Farmland Preservation Program enabled him to resist the pressure and continue farming.

And when he finally decided to retire, he was able to sell the farm to someone with whom he had worked for many years, Robin Chesmer.

Chesmer has since greatly expanded the amount of protected acreage and made significant investments in modern infrastructure at his Graywall Farms, a member of the Farmer's Cow partnership with five other dairy farms in Eastern Connecticut.

"We now have 900 acres and over 700 of that is protected," Chesmer said. "I wouldn't be where I am today if not for this program."

Similar stories from across the state were told throughout the daylong celebration last Saturday, which marked the milestones of 300 farms and 40,000 acres being protected statewide under the preservation program since it was created in 1978.

The event on the historic Lebanon Green was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and featured live bluegrass music, square dancing, hay rides, Connecticut-grown food and a variety of exhibits from the agency and its preservation partners.

In the distance, attendees could see the season's last cut of hay being harvested on the scenic, mile-long Green - the last in the state still actively farmed by abutting property owners.

"This event in this magnificent agricultural setting is a tribute to the farm families

who work the land and to everyone who is dedicated to keeping farmland available for agricultural production forever," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "For more than three decades, Connecticut has been a national leader in preserving our prime and important soils. Today, we pause to reflect on the good works of so many and give thanks to our elected leaders for their continued support, and to Connecticut's farmers and others who have committed to protecting the working lands in perpetuity."

Governor Dannel P. Malloy addressed the crowd in front of a hay maze built for the event with more than 300 bales.



(Continued on Page 3)

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, Sept. 22, 2014

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	65.00	70.00
61-75 lbs.	160.00	170.00
76-90 lbs.	190.00	210.00
91-105 lbs.	230.00	240.00
106 lbs. & up	250.00	255.00
Farm Calves	260.00	285.00
Starter Calves	55.00	65.00
Veal Calves	170.00	260.00
Open Heifers	125.00	200.00
Beef Steers	135.00	157.00
Beef Heifers	114.00	156.00
Feeder Steers	120.00	142.50
Stock Bulls	115.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	128.00	155.00
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	80.00	260.00
Kid Goats	55.00	95.00
Canners	up to	112.00
Cutters	113.00	116.00
Utility Grade Cows	117.00	120.00
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	5.00	19.00
Chickens each	4.00	22.50
Ducks each	5.00	8.00
Feeder Pigs	1 at	65.00
Lambs	120.00	180.00
Sheep	90.00	110.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

		Low	High
48-54	200-300 lbs	76.00	80.00
	300-400 lbs	77.00	82.00
54-58	200-300 lbs	80.00	84.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	61.00	65.00
	500-700 lbs	65.00	67.00
Boars	650-800 lbs	39.00	41.50

**DIRECT TO CONSUMER  
RETAIL BEEF**

VERMONT GRASS FED (\$ / LB)

TENDERLOIN	15.00	22.00
BL RIBEYE	12.00	22.00
NY STRIP	13.25	19.00
T-BONE	11.25	20.00
HAMBURGER	5.50	8.00
STEW	5.00	8.00
BRISKET	6.50	7.50
RIB ROAST	11.35	15.00

**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

	LOW	HIGH
BLUEBERRIES 12/1PT,PULP	48.00	52.00
BEAN,Cranberry,BU	35.00	40.00
BROCCOLI,14CT	16.00	18.00
BEAN GREEN,BU,HAND PICK	25.00	28.00
BEAN WAX, BU	28.00	28.00
BROCCOLI,CROWNS,20LB	16.00	22.00
BEET,12'S	15.00	18.00
ARUGULA,24'S	12.00	12.00
COLLARD	10.00	12.00
CORN,5DZ	8.00	10.00
CAULIFLOWER,9-10CT	16.00	18.00
DILL 24'S	14.00	14.00
EGGPLANT,1 1/9 BU	10.00	13.00
KALE,12'S	10.00	14.00
KOHLRABI 12'S	16.00	16.00
CABBAGE,GREEN,BOX	10.00	16.00
RADISHES,24'S	14.00	14.00
PEPPER,CUBANELLE 11/9BU	12.00	12.00
PEPPER,JALAPENO,1/2BU	10.00	12.00
PEPPER,BELL,GREEN XL	10.00	15.00
PEPPERS TRNING RED LGE	8.00	10.00
RHUBARB 20 IB LGE	32.00	32.00
SQUASH,YELLOW,FCY,1/2BU	12.00	24.00
SQUASH,YELLOW,MED,1/2BU	10.00	18.00
SQUASH,GREEN,FCY,1/2BU	15.00	26.00
SQUASH,GREEN,MED,1/2BU	12.00	22.00
SWISS CHARD,12'S	16.00	18.00
PARSNIPS,25LB	22.00	24.00
GRAPE,CONCORD ,8/1QT	26.00	26.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,96CT XFCY	28.00	32.00
APPLE,GALA,80CT,XFCY	32.00	34.00
APPLE,MCINTOSH,12/3	24.00	24.00
PEAR,BOSC,4/5BU	30.00	32.00
APPLE,CORT,80CT,XFCY	32.00	32.00
PLUM,BLACK,20LB	30.00	30.00

**WHOLESALE SEASONAL NEW ENGLAND**

INDIAN CORN ,20/3'S	25.00	25.00
PUMPKIN,HOWDEN,36" bin,jbo	180.00	225.00
PUMPKIN,Pie,sm,36"bin,med	250.00	300.00
PUMPKIN,Pie,1 1/9bu	11.00	20.00
SQUASH,Acorn,1 1/9bu	12.00	16.00
SQUASH,BUTTERNUT,1 1/9BU	14.00	16.00
SQUASH,KABOCHA,1 1/9BU	18.00	25.00
SQUASH,SPAGHETTI,1 1/9BU	22.00	22.00

**WHOLESALE TOMATOES NEW ENGLAND**

PLUM,25LB	12.00	16.00
CHERRY,12/1 PT	15.00	18.00
GRAPE,12/1PT	16.00	18.00
FIELD,25LB	10.00	20.00
HEIRLOOM,10 LB	20.00	28.00

**PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY**

Average Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	Low	High
breakers 75-80% lean	106.75	112.00
boners 80-85% lean	102.25	106.75
lean 85-90% lean	95.50	100.25
CALVES graded bull		
No 95-120lbs	279.25	322.00
No 2 95-120lbs	246.25	285.25
No 3 80-12 0lbs	172.00	223.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm2-3	163.00	164.00
Ch2-3	152.00	155.50
Sel2-3	146.50	149.75
SLAUGHTER STEERS.		
HiCh/prm3-4	159.00	163.50
Ch2-3	155.50	158.75
Sel2-3	151.00	154.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/prm3-4	143.00	147.00
Ch2-3	139.00	142.75
Sel2-3	133.50	136.25
VEALERS	38.75	92.75
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3		
50-70lbs	220.00	227.00
70-80lb	217.00	232.00
90-110lbs	220.00	238.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3		
120-160lbs	92.00	112.00
160-190lbs	92.00	132.00
Bucks		
150-160.lbs	80.00	170.00
160-200lbs	75.00	175.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS:Sel.1, by head, est.		
20-40lb	n/a	n/a
40-60lb	126.00	150.00
60-80lb	160.00	200.00
80-100lb	175.00	200.00
Nannies/Does: 60-110lbs	177.00	210.00
130-180lbs	175.00	245.00
Bucks/Billies: 160-180lbs	210.00	300.00
150-170lbs	n/a	

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.19	1.23
LARGE	1.17	1.21
MEDIUM	1.03	1.07

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.62	1.71
LARGE	1.58	1.67
MEDIUM	1.25	1.35

## FOR SALE

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3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

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112-R. 2011 Greenhouse 25 X 60, Furnace, Roth Oil Tank, Fans, Micro Gro, Poly Gal Ends Doors, roll up sides, Sodium lights, Benches, \$6,500. 203-233-9677. Photos available. [Martymonroe-gardens@gmail.com](mailto:Martymonroe-gardens@gmail.com).

117-R. Rough sawn hemlock and white pine lumber, great for fall time repairs and new construction. Also, year end inventory bargains on air dried oak and mixed hardwood lumber sold as units of approx.. 500 board feet each. We welcome your custom orders to be sawn. Hinman Lumber, Burlington, CT 860-673-9170.

118-R. Boer Goat, 5 yrs. old. Purebred buck. \$400. 860-537-1974.

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124-R. Yorkshire Cross Piglets-8 weeks. \$120 each. 860-668-2181 Suffield, CT.

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## HUNDREDS GATHER IN LEBANON TO CELEBRATE FARMLAND PRESERVATION STATEWIDE

(Continued from Page 1)

"This is who we are in Connecticut," Malloy said as he stood in ankle-deep hay. "Agriculture is part of our history and part of our culture and it must be preserved. It has to be a priority for the state."

Noting that Connecticut leads New England in the growth of new farms over the past five years, Malloy lauded the efforts of the farmland preservation program, and pointed to newer grant programs he initiated to help farmers rebuild structures lost in extreme weather events and to restore fallow land.

"I am proud that we are able to help get farmers back in business and to get more acres into production," he said. "We're really getting something done together."

Malloy said he relies on the advice of many farmers he regularly consults, including Chesmer and Terry Jones of Shelton, who also spoke at the event. Recalling years of lean funding for agricultural projects, Jones said Malloy's support has been an encouraging change in leadership.

"Farmland preservation is a tool – and as farmers we know that with the right tool you can get the job done," Jones said. "We are preserving the soil, we are preserving clean air and water and we are providing healthy food. That's as good as it gets."

In a tent set up near the head of the Green, bluegrass band Nick Anderson and Shady Creek played before turning the stage over to square dance caller Joe LoPresti and His Country Friends band.

As a mix of young and old twirled on the dance floor, horse-drawn hay rides took other attendees on a tour of the Green, rich with Revolutionary War-era history and buildings.

Visitors streamed through tents to view exhibits manned by the Dept. of Agriculture and its partners in farmland preservation, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Connecticut Farmland Trust, the Town of Lebanon and the Working Lands Alliance.

The Dept. of Agriculture's display featured a timeline illustration of the Farmland Preservation Program. Cmsr. Reviczky said he is working to increase the number of farms protected per year, with the goal of preserving 400 farms and 50,000 acres by 2020.

Other exhibits at the event included aerial photos of preserved Connecticut farms taken by Leslie Sweetnam, of Woodstock; a series of portraits of Connecticut farmers taken by Old Wethersfield photographer Jack McConnell, and farm photos submitted by participants in the preservation program.

One of the photos shows a metal dairy barn at Graywall Farms that Manning built in 1966 and is still used today by Chesmer.

Manning said the photos, exhibits and stories told at the event are evidence of the hard work it takes to maintain a farm, and the diligence it will take to keep agriculture thriving in Connecticut.

"I think this helps people comprehend what it took years ago to stay in farming, what it takes today and what it's still going to take to keep agriculture going in this state," he said. "I just hope that a hundred years from now people will think this program was a good deal. And I expect they will."



Oliver Manning stands next to a photo of a dairy barn he built in 1966 at his Lebanon farm.



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS  
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**Nick Anderson and Shady Creek Band**  
**Square A Farm**  
**The Farmer's Cow**  
**Town of Lebanon**



**Above, Agriculture Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky, (L) and Lebanon dairy farmer Robin Chesmer address the crowd at the Farmland Preservation Celebration.**



**Left, horse-drawn hay rides took attendees on a tour of sites around the historic Lebanon Green.**

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